Listing of Claims:

1-2   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

storing an account for each of a plurality of subscribers of the wireless network, each account having an upstream and a downstream balance,

tracking wireless network data consumption of the respective subscriber of the wireless network via the wireless network;

wherein when either the upstream or downstream balance of the account of a subscriber of the wireless network drops below a defined level, imposing a more restrictive bandwidth on that subscriber;

wherein each subscriber has its own defined level; and

for each account, crediting the balance of the respective account on an intermittent basis.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of crediting is performed on a periodic basis.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of crediting includes crediting the balance of each account by an amount that depends upon the balance of the respective account.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein when the balance of the account of that subscriber rises above a predetermined level, imposing a less restrictive bandwidth.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein imposing a less restrictive bandwidth comprises releasing the more restrictive bandwidth.

2

9.	(Original) The method of claim 3, further including a step of, for each of the subscribers, reducing the balance of the account of the respective subscriber by an amount based upon a volume of network data consumption by that subscriber.

10.	(Original) The method of claim 3, further including a step of sending information to each of the subscribers indicating the balance of the account of each respective subscriber.

11.	(Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the upstream and downstream balance for each account is presented to the user.

12	(Canceled)

13.	(Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the balance for each account is a burst balance.

14.	(Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein imposing a more restrictive bandwidth limitation further depends upon at least one of a time of day and a current network congestion level.

15.	(Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 comprising regulating a bandwidth available to a network subscriber based on whether a predetermined volume of data has previously been consumed by the subscriber.

16.	(Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the bandwidth is regulated based on whether the predetermined volume of data has been consumed by the subscriber over a defined window of time.

17.	(Original) The method of claim 15, further including a step of sending information to the subscriber indicating whether the bandwidth is being regulated.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the wireless network is configured to regulate a bandwidth available to one of the subscribers based on whether a predetermined volume of data has previously been consumed by that subscriber.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the method utlilizes a computer coupled to a database, the database storing an account balance for each of the plurality of subscribers, the account balance depending upon a volume of data previously consumed by a respective subscriber.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the computer is configured to regulate the bandwidth available to one of the subscriber responsive to the account balance of that subscriber dropping below a defined level.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method in a wireless network for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising steps of:

        storing an upstream balance and a downstream balance for each of a plurality of subscribers of the wireless network, each balance tracking a different aspect of wireless network data consumption of the respective subscriber via the network;

        imposing a more restrictive bandwidth on a subscriber responsive to at least one of the balances of that subscriber of the wireless network dropping below a defined level, wherein each subscriber has its own defined level; and

        for each subscriber of the wireless network, crediting at least one of the balances of the respective subscriber of the wireless network on an intermittent basis.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of balances for each subscriber are in a same account of the respective subscriber.

24.   (New) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising the steps of:

4

storing an account for each of a plurality of subscribers of the network, each account having at least a downstream balance and a first downstream bandwidth;

tracking network data consumption of the respective subscribers of the network;

assigning a subscriber a second downstream bandwidth which allows downstream data flow at a level more restrictive than the first downstream bandwidth when the downstream balance of the account of a subscriber of the network drops below a defined level; and

for each account, crediting the balance of the respective account on an intermittent basis.

25.   (New) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising the steps of tracking the data usage of each of a plurality of users of a network and dynamically adjusting the amount of available bandwidth to each of the users by decreasing the amount of bandwidth allocated to a particular user in response to a high rate of usage and increasing the amount of bandwidth allocated to a particular user in response to a low rate of usage and restoring a user to a default bandwidth in response to passage of time without usage.

26.   (New) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising the steps of maintaining an entry for data usage of each of a plurality of users of a network and dynamically adjusting the amount of available bandwidth to each of the users by allowing data to flow at a level less than a first level of bandwidth allocated to a particular user by lowering the amount of throughput in response to a high rate of usage and allowing data to flow at the first level in response to a low rate of usage after a passage of time with a low rate of usage.

27.   (New) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising the steps of tracking the data usage of each of a plurality of users of a network and dynamically adjusting the amount of available bandwidth to each of the users by increasing the amount of bandwidth allocated to a particular user in response to a high rate of usage and restoring a user to a default bandwidth in response to passage of time without usage.

28.   (New) A computer implemented method for regulating data consumption in a network, comprising the steps of maintaining an entry for data usage of each of a plurality of users of a network and dynamically adjusting the amount of available bandwidth to each of the users by allowing data to flow at a level higher than a first level of bandwidth allocated to a particular user by raising the amount of throughput in response to a high rate of usage and allowing data to flow at the first level in response to a low rate of usage after a passage of time with a low rate of usage.